104-10129-10397

SECRET

1-21-68

Lawyer Visits Ray, Calls Him 'Optimistic'

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — James Earl Ray, accused assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was described by his lawyer yesterday as being "in a good frame of mind and optimistic."

Arthur Hanes, his lawyer from Birmingham, Ala., spent two hours and eight minutes in Ray's steel-lined cell on the third floor of the Shelby County Jail discussing preliminary arrangements for Ray's murder trial.

He declined to go into what was discussed, saying only that the private session "opened up a broad spectrum." He said no arraignment date has been set.

Discusses 'Ground Rules'

Before going into the closely guarded air-conditioned cellblock, Hanes met with Sheriff William N. Morris Jr. and Dist. Atty. Gen. Phil Canale to discuss "the general ground rules for the trial. They afforded me every courtesy," Hanes said.

Hanes' visit with Ray inside the jail surrounded by shotgun-toting deputies was the first he had since his turned over to U.S. authorities in London and flown back to the United States.

He said he was "perfectly satisfied with the accommodations and the system set up" to guard Ray. "My client is satisfied."

Quizzed on Picture

The only photograph released of Ray since his return was taken by the sheriff's department and showed Ray handcuffed and wearing a bullet-proof vest.

Asked whether he would prefer some pictures showing Ray in a deifferent light, Hanes answered:

"As time goes on, perhaps tomorrow, we will discuss this more thoroughly and see what we can do about it."

Hanes declined comment on whether his client was named James Earl Ray. He had given the name Raymon George Sneyd when arrested in London June 8.

Expects Fair Trial

And he said he thought his client could get "as fair a trial in Memphis as anywhere. I have great faith in the American sys-

NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION AND/OR RELEASE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The Washington STAR
21 July 1968

JFK ACT RELEASE

8/6/68

3-21-68

NO. | FILE NO. | TYPE | PAGE | ANALYSIS OR CHARGEOUT